



Inside ...of OJJ



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,

What a month we've had. It seems like we were in emergency mode for the H1N1 flu forever, but it was only a week. We took all practical precautions to keep our youth in every facility (and staff!) and group home from contact with the virus and we seem to have succeeded. No H1N1 cases have been reported within OJJ.

As you probably know, the governor mobilized the Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP) and the Joint Information Center (JIC) to stay on top of a possible epidemic, obtain anti-viral medication and keep the lines of communication to the public open. I am proud of the way all agencies pulled together. Louisiana is fortunate to have had minimal reported cases of H1N1 so far. But we are likely to see a few more, and this proved to be an excellent exercise for all of us in OJJ and all agencies. We have certainly proven that we know what to do and how to do it if we are threatened with a pandemic again. Thanks to every one of you for your role in taking care of our kids – and your own health.

May brings Mother's Day and I hope that each of you has a reason to celebrate. All of us have had a mother in our lives and many are mothers. I hope you will have a great day on Sunday, and remember that some of our kids may miss seeing their mothers.

"JETS," our new Juvenile Electronic Tracking System, took off April 30. IT Director Dawson Andrews and his team have been working for some time to develop the new system. JIRMS and OYD Case Management have been combined into the new system. Many thanks to Dawson and his team, and to Hammond Administrative Coordinator Courtney Pegues and CO IT Liaison Officer Stacey Miller, who conducted training sessions for staff, assisted by Sean Labat, IT Applications Project Leader.

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



BCCY Chaplain Rev.
Beulah Moore

Honoring Mothers Loving and Mending the Relationship

Mothers are a very special breed of people. As a Mother to your kids, you know that somehow for the next few decades or for as long as you live, you'll be wearing your heart on your sleeve.

And as a son or daughter to your mother, you also will appreciate the courage and challenges your mom has gone through for you.

If you know anything about a farm, you know broken fences are seriously viewed and promptly mended, for broken fences soon rupture relationships between good neighbors.

Faith expects that fences will need to be mended! It assures that relationships will be strained, perhaps ruptured. It doesn't discard relationships because of deep disagreements. This is simply a fence that needs to be mended.

You don't sell a house or farm because the fences keep breaking down. You don't sell a car because the tires keep wearing out. You don't discard a marriage or a relationship with your mother because you keep having disagreements. You don't throw out clothes when they're dirty.

Mending broken fences, repairing broken relationships is The Creator's Specialty. Yours may be well overdue, begin the process.

It takes a great deal of faith to build a level of trust and affection with mothers and mothers-in-law who have been outsiders but who suddenly move into your social circle. I say this because many do not have a good relationship with their mothers or mothers-in-law.

You did not choose the person to be who they may be in your life. Many of you have experienced hurt, pain and disappointments. Too often we hold on to feelings, attitudes and circumstances long after their relevance in our lives has passed. Holding on to old baggage demands mental, emotional, and/or physical energy.

Forgive them for your own sake, free yourself. Once upon a memory someone wiped away a tear, held you close and loved you even if it wasn't your own Mother dear.

For all the new moms:

Dear One, it's such a hectic day. For life's been anything but calm, since He called on you to be a mom. Running errands, matching socks, building dreams with building blocks. Cooking, cleaning, and finding shoes, and other stuff that children lose. Fitting lids on bottled bugs. Wiping tears and giving hugs. A stack of last week's mail to read. So where's the quiet time you need? Yet when you steal a minute, lord, just at the sink or ironing board, to ask the blessings of His grace, you see then, in your small one's face, that He has blessed you all the while and you stop to kiss that precious smile.

For mothers who are no longer with us:

In tears we saw you sinking, and watched you pass away. Our hearts were almost broken, we wanted you to stay. But when we saw you sleeping, so peaceful, free from pain, how could we wish you back with us, to suffer that again. It broke our hearts to

lose you, but you did not go alone. For part of us went with you, the day He took you home.

To all mothers:

A mother holds her children's hands for a while... their hearts forever. Grown don't mean a thing to a mother, a child is a child. They get bigger, older, but grown? What's that suppose to mean? In our hearts it don't me a thing.

Author Unknown

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!
THE DAILY MOTIVATOR
Leave limitations behind

Whatever you think is holding you back is not what is truly holding you back. What's holding you back is your thought that something is holding you back. Your limitations have precisely the power that you choose to give them. Ignore them and they become irrelevant.

Is there something you desire that seems impossible? Then you still have work to do in framing and clarifying and connecting with the truth of that desire.

Nothing separates you from your authentic purpose other than your refusal to see it. See it, be it, and leave the limitations behind.

- Ralph Marston

JETS Takes Off!

Implementation of JETS - OJJ's newly developed Juvenile Electronic Tracking System - is off to a great start. **IT Director Dawson Andrews** and the JETS Development Team have been working to develop the new, single entry system that combines and replaces the dual entry process of Case Management and JIRMS.

Many thanks to the JETS Development Team: **Sean Labat**, IT App. Project Leader, **Wade Campbell**, IT App. Programmer, **Shannon Howell**, IT App. Programmer, and **Vy Nguyen**, IT App. Programmer/Analyst, who worked tirelessly to research the technology, created the system, and continue to

development it to meet all the data needs of the agency.

Thanks also to the Technical Support group who made sure the hardware and software are compatible: **Brian Bailey**, IT Tech Support Supervisor, **Zeke Kirby**, IT Tech Support Specialist, **Danyelle Toval**, IT Tech Support Specialist and **Jason Williams**, IT Equipment Operator.

Thanks to our trainers for the new system, **Stacey Miller**, IT Liaison Officer and **Courtney Pegues**, **Hammond OJJ Administrative Coordinator**, who conducted training sessions, assisted by **Sean Labat**.



Hammond Administrative Coordinator Courtney Pegues conducts JETS training at central office.

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...
Maria Menard, Social Worker 4, Lafayette Regional Office



Maria Menard and daughter Amelie

If you ever have the pleasure of engaging in a conversation with Maria Menard, LCSW, Lafayette Regional Office Social Worker 4, you will come away with two major impressions: Maria has the soul of a social worker and she's all about taking care of kids.

Maria has been an OJJ employee for two years, and was an independent treatment provider for a year and has spent most of her career working with at risk youth. "I am drawn to this population," she said, "these kids are so real, and they represent the real suffering that exists in the world. They are such high needs clients and they are often missing things that we take for granted in our lives."

In spotlighting Maria, Regional Manager Sharon Guillory said, "Maria is a nice mix to add to a staff of probation officers and supervisors. She is instrumental in thinking of ways to boost morale in our office and getting us to have fun every now and then. Recently she spearheaded the effort in getting a team together to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure." (See Team Mina in last month's **Inside Scoop...of OJJ.**)

Maria started working with kids when she was still a teenager and in college. She worked as a counselor at a children's camp in North Carolina, and even served as the camp owner's nanny.

She worked for The Family Tree, a non profit organization, assigned to the Breaux Bridge Adolescent Drug Court, for five years, and also worked for the Children's Shelter in Lafayette.

"The PPOs find great joy in hearing my perspective on some of our cases," Maria said. "Our kids are not bad, every one of them was created with potential. The circumstances into which they were born created their pain and suffering. I have seen some kids do really well and I recognize that as a sign of growth and progress. I've seen angry kids start to

soften when they are treated with respect, consistency and love."

"Some of our kids are in defense mode," Maria continued. "We have seen some who have grown up in a violent environment. Working with the PPOs, we give them encouragement and provide consistency. They come to realize that there are people who are not going to hurt them. It's really inspiring to meet some of these kids. I love talking with them and working with them."

Maria graduated from the LSU School of Social Work with an MSW in 2002. She also holds a bachelor's degree in English from ULL.

She is married with a three-and-a-half year old daughter and two teenaged stepsons. Maria has a number of personal interests and said she likes to do things avidly. Maria enjoys running as sport. She would like to have more time to cook, and her vegetable garden is doing well. Harking back to the English degree, Maria enjoys reading and writing. Her faith is important to her and she is close to her family in Lafayette. Maria enjoys spending time with friends and family, especially daughter Amelie.

"This work feeds me," Maria said. "It makes me grateful, and I learn so much from the kids about life, and the suffering in the world."

Transitions Coming and goings...

Welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:

BATON ROUGE
Paul Kopan – Field Agent

BRIDGE CITY
Youth Care Worker Terry Washington
Reginald Jones – electrician

Security Officer Letoyal Green
Security Officer Deanna Hunter
Security Officer Erica North
Social Worker Aurlisa Courtney-Isom

CENTRAL OFFICE

Adina Kyles, Budget Manager
Philip Mason, Accountant 3
Student Worker Brittany Bricker

Retired: PPO Prog. Spec. Leroy Ortego

JETSON

Principal Ronnie Knox
Security Officer Shawn Kissick

Retirements:

Instructor Janester Anderson
Instructor Yvonne Asberry
Instructor Leona Bailey
Instructor Johnnie Brown
Asst. Maint. Mgr. Donald Dixon
Instructor Marianne Fry
Principal Brenda Jack
Painter Foreman Thomas Jarrell

NATCHITOCHES

Promoted: Harold Cook - PPO 3 - Juv.
Student Worker Cecelia Russ

SWANSON

Substitute Teacher Jo Williams

Alexandria Regional Office

Congratulations to Regional Manager Johnny Qualls, proud grandfather of a beautiful baby girl, Emma Kate.

PPOs Trinity Adams and Angelic McCray have qualified with firearms, and completed chemical weapons training at the Alexandria Police Academy.

Condolences to PPO Donna DeSoto, who lost her mother, Mona Raiford. Please keep Donna and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

RM Johnny Qualls and PPS Clay Dupuy, treated Sandra Ross and

Cassandra Conston to lunch at Applebee's in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day.

PPO Rodney McNeal participated in a community education panel at Smyrna Seventh Day Adventist Church, to provide the community with information about the juvenile justice system. There were approximately 250 community attendees. Rodney sat on the panel with local juvenile court personnel and local law enforcement officers. The panel discussed the Children's Code, the court process, FINS, OJJ prevention resources, OJJ's Mission and OJJ resources for adjudicated youth. Rodney's participation created positive public relations for OJJ.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ spent the month April gearing up for JETS, SAVRY and Service Coordination! Our staff participated in multiple trainings and meetings with other OJJ staff around the state to make sure all systems are ready to go. RM Sue Larisey, PPS Susan Miller and PPO Roy McBride attended the JETS Training at Hammond OJJ. PPS Susan Miller, PPO Stephanie Krygowski, PPS Rickey Cannon, PPO Elois Nelson and RM Sue Larisey attended the SAVRY Training.

PPO Leslie Jones began the POST Academy.

Baton Rouge OJJ successfully completed firearms requalification. (Whew!)

A special thanks to Deputy Asst. Secretary Carolyn Lewis and Program Manager Melba Oubre for joining us at a luncheon as we said our farewells to TO Robert Franklin and Admin. Coordinator Christina Falcon.

Bridge City Center for Youth

Youth Minister News

The Bridge City Youth conducted a play "The Trials and Passion of Jesus The Christ" at the Morris Brown A.M.E. church in New Orleans. Youths Dale, Jarvis, Daniel, Joshua, Gerald, and Zachary gave an unforgettable performance.

In May Youth Minister Jarvis will speak at Morris Brown Church for its youth day program. Bridge City Youth Chorus "Destination" will perform.



BCCY's 11th LAMOD Class began training in April and graduated in early May. The class is shown here with their SCM Instructors: **Ms. Jelata Jordan** (bottom left) & **Ms. Ivory Watts** (top right). The class consists of 9 Youth Care Workers, 3 Social Services staff, and one Electrician. We are excited that they are a part of the BCCY family.

BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

By Coach Dwight Watson

In April the BCCY Fast Track basketball team took on the Jetson Tigers. The game started out low scoring for the BCCY Fast Track team. However, the game picked up with a lot of scoring from both teams. At the middle of the 3rd quarter, BCCY Fast Track and JCY Fast Track went back and forth with lead changes and both teams were very competitive.

The 4th quarter started with JCY in the lead. That's when the BCCY Fast Track team got hot making shots and BCCY took the lead with 5 seconds left in the

game. BCCY Fast Track called a timeout as a foul was called on the BCCY team. In the end the JCY team made two free throws to win the game in a thriller. **Jetson Fast Track 31.....BCCY Fast Track 30.** The boys from BCCY played a hard fought game, considering they only had one week of practice. Coach Watson and the BCCY staff are very proud of the hard fought effort. **GO BCCY BULLDOGS!!!!!!**

Also in April the BCCY Fast Track team took on JCY's Fast Track basketball team in a rematch at the BCCY gym. This time the results were different. BCCY Fast Track came out real fast and took an early scoring lead on Jetson Fast Track team, leading at halftime.....BCCY 16, Jetson 4. However, in the 3rd quarter, Jetson Fast Track hit a couple of shots to make it close. On the other hand, BCCY's Randall S., got hot and hit three 3 point shots to blow the game wide open. Both teams played a hard fought game. But in the end, BCCY Fast Track team beat the Jetson Fast Track team. **The final score was BCCY 34.....Jetson 20.**

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM BCCY BASKETBALL-LONG TERM

It's a rematch between BCCY Long Term against JCY Long Term. Both teams played hard, both teams were competitive and both teams played exciting basketball.

However, when it was all said and done, BCCY's Long Term team bet JCY's Long Term team in a thriller!!

BCCY LONG TERM.....51
JETSON LONG TERM.....46

Coach Watson and the BCCY Staff want to congratulate all of the basketball players of this year's team 2008-2009 and the whole staff hopes that you have learned the game of basketball. But also, we hope that

BCCY VICTIM AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

During April youth wrote poems, and also wrote letters to their victims and to their own families, addressing how their choices affected more than just their own lives.

Youth volunteered at the New Mission to help the homeless. Youth visited with the volunteer fire fighters and the Fire Chief helping at our local volunteer fire station.

On a day to honor senior citizens, our youth visited the Bridge City Senior Citizen Home to show their appreciation for our elders and the value of life.

A select group of youth spoke to young students at Henry Ford Middle School and Bridge City Elementary School about their experiences, and encouraged them not to follow the same pattern.

Central Office

Welcome to two new members of the CO family, both in the Fiscal Office:
Adina Kyles, Budget Manager
Philip Mason, Accountant 3

**Thanks to Jason Williams, IT
Equipment Operator, for this great
graphic.**



Congratulations to CO Employee of the Year Shirley Jackson, HR Manager. From left, Deputy Undersecretary Paula Merrick-Roddy, Deputy Secretary Mary Livers, Ms. Jackson and Undersecretary James Bueche.



Congratulations to Amy Curry, Contract/Grants Manager, who was honored with the CO Fourth Quarter Award of Excellence. Pictured with Amy, left, is Paula Merrick-Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary, center, and Dr. Mary Livers, Deputy Secretary, right.



Major Dion Freeman, Baton Rouge Company Commander, presents a plaque to Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers, conferring Partner Status on OJJ with PaYS, Partnership for Youth Success. PaYS is a partnership between the U.S. Army and a cross section of American corporations and public sector agencies. The program provides an opportunity for servicemen and women to serve their country while preparing for their future after leaving the service.

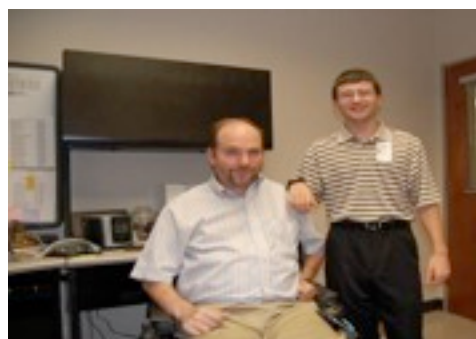
As a partner, OJJ will consider hiring qualified former members of the service to work in the field of juvenile justice.

SPECIAL THANKS

The gentlemen of central office commemorated Mother's Day by planning and serving a fabulous luncheon for the ladies. They served jambalaya, white beans, fried chicken, salad, rolls and a gorgeous cake. The door prizes were also a big hit. Everyone had a great time, the ladies were most appreciative, and the men enjoyed putting on such a wonderful feast. Below are photos from the event.



Program Specialist Melba Oubre accompanied AMI youth from residential and day treatment programs all over the state to the Orange Ribbon Rally at the State Capitol, as part of Alcohol Awareness Month in April. The rally focused on prevention of underage drinking.



IT Director Dawson Andrews' stepson Josh Fowler spent a day shadowing his dad as part of a school project on career planning. Josh is an 8th grader at Southside Middle School in Denham Springs. Josh enjoyed the experience of seeing what his dad does for a living, and CO staff enjoyed meeting the engaging young student.

Hammond Regional Office

Regional Manager Julie Eudy reports that the boys at New Directions in Covington made key chains and sold them for Crime Victims Week. The money will be donated to a rape crisis center. To date they have raised over \$100.00!

The Easter Bunny visited Hammond OJJ in April and delivered Bunny Grams to the staff. Bunny Grams began last Easter as a way to raise money for the Make-a-Smile Foundation. Hammond OJJ raised \$435 last year which went toward building a playground in Bogalusa. This year, the money from the Bunny Grams was used to boost our office fund, which we use to celebrate birthdays, new babies, etc. **PPO Matt Bauer** was our Easter Bunny and dressed in a costume to deliver the Bunny Grams.



The Easter Bunny, aka PPO Matt Bauer, in action at Hammond OJJ.



Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues, has been busy providing JETS Training to the OJJ Regional Offices. Trainings have been held in Hammond, Monroe, Lafayette, Central Office and Alexandria.

Hammond OJJ staff spent much of April participating in Service Coordination Training.

Hammond OJJ held a luncheon for its Administrative Staff to recognize Administrative Professional's Day. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the administrative staff appreciated the recognition.

Jetson Center for Youth

James A. Gondles, Executive Director of the American Correctional Association (ACA), visited central office and Jetson recently. Mr. Gondles was very complimentary about the experience. After spending some time with staff and youth in several housing units and touring the infirmary, Mr. Gondles commented on the pleasant environment and orderly atmosphere on the campus.



Director Daron Brown, Deputy Secretary Mary Livers and James Gondles, ACA Executive Director.

SCENIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL HAS NEW PRINCIPAL

Ronnie B. Knox has been named principal of Scenic Alternative High School at Jetson. With 23 years of experience in education, Mr. Knox comes to OJJ from Valley Park Alternative School in East Baton Rouge Parish, which educates 6th -12th grade students expelled from EBR public schools.

Mr. Knox also served as Dean of Students at Broadmoor Middle School in Baton Rouge, a school with a large population of disadvantaged students.

He has worked with a number of PPOs, state agency social workers and juvenile court judges over the years. "Jetson services several former Valley Park Students," Mr. Knox said.

In applying for the Jetson position, Mr. Knox said his heart kept telling him that his place is in an alternative school setting. "These are not the traditional kids," Mr. Knox noted. "You can't think in the traditional way with these youth – you have to think creatively."



Knox

Principal Ronnie

CONGRATULATIONS

Para educator Bishop Samuel Butler was selected to conduct the opening prayer for the Legislative Session April 28. He is the Bishop at St. Luke Christian Center in Plaquemine. **JCY Director Daron Brown** was present at the session to show support.



Bishop Samuel Butler

VICTIM AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES

JCY commemorated Victim Awareness Week with the following activities:

The Star Program – staff could purchase a star for \$1.00, to represent someone they know who has been a crime victim. Youth were given posters so they could **create pictures or poems**. The posters were on display in the school hallway. Staff enjoyed a **cake walk**. A **3-point contest** was held in the Area 3 gym, with sponsors be present to support our youth. A **Balloon Ceremony** in the flag area included a prayer and balloon release.

OPEN HOUSE

JCY held an open house in April during visitation. The meet and greet experience was a sharing session to talk to parents, answer questions and address concerns. New principal **Ronnie Knox** was introduced and parents toured the school. Information was also presented on implementation of LaMod process.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Congratulations to PPO Rhonda Gallet, of the Vermilion Parish Unit, and her husband John, who celebrated four years of marriage on April 16, 2009.

Good luck to **PPOs Tashana Boyd, Cassandra Brown, and Wanda Sylvester**, who started the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office POST Academy in April. We know you'll do us proud!

A special "Thank You" from the Lafayette OJJ goes to **PPOs Bret Gould and Courtney Holderman**, the region's firearms instructors. They selflessly gave of their time for four days in the month of April, and were able to get all Lafayette officers re-qualified.

The pro-active St. Mary Unit, comprised of six **PPOs: Michelle Deshotel, Kevin Broussard, Karla Meranto, Cassandra Brown, Robert Stuckey, and Paige Sieber**, assisted ten youths, who were either in OJJ custody or under OJJ supervision, with the application and interview process for the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program. "It definitely takes extra work and going the extra mile for the PPO to be pro-active about one's caseload," notes **PPS Steve Neef** of the St. Mary Parish Unit, "but it gives these troubled youth something that can really improve and build the quality of their future education, career, and family situation." PPS Neef adds that "it can also save the state a significant amount of money as well. For instance, these ten offenders

may have cost the state nearly a quarter of a million dollars before they all would have completed the particular residential (non-secure) or intensive residential (secure) placement programs to which they were to be assigned over the next six months to a year." We wish them the best of luck as they begin the five-month program.

Six staff participated as a team in a trivia competition in April, to benefit the Civitan Club of Lafayette, of which **PPO Roy Brown** is a member. Members of the team were **Roy Brown, Social Worker Stephanie Ledet, PPO Joey Graciana, PPO Chris Potier, PPO Mina Travis, and PPS Joey Denais**. The event raised nearly \$8,000 for Civitan, which benefits retarded citizens.



Lafayette OJJ Trivia Team

OJJ bids farewell to **Clerical Worker Judy Pitre**, who retired in April. Judy spent 15 years in service to the state, the last 8 with OJJ. Judy will be missed, but we at Lafayette OJJ wish her a restful and fun-filled retirement... it is certainly well-earned.

For Administrative Professionals Week, clerical staff at Lafayette OJJ, including **Cheryl Denais, Stephanie Rabalais, Cecile Schexnider, Alina Perro, and Christina Sanchez**, were treated to lunch and cake as a token of appreciation for all their hard work and dedication. The clerical staff works tirelessly to aid the probation officers in

coordinating services, which helps us meet the OJJ Mission.

SUCCESS STORIES

New Iberia youth Johnnie C., under the tutelage of **PPO Rosanna Langner**, is a senior at New Iberia Senior High, and has signed a letter of intent to play football for Kilgore College, in Kilgore, Texas. The 6'3 230 lb. linebacker received a full football scholarship. Originally placed on probation in 2007 for a delinquent offense, Johnnie found a used football as a way to relieve stress, and also as an encouragement to keep up with his studies.

Another one of **PPO Rosanna Langner's clients, Hailey G.** from St. Martinville, has been nominated for The Who's Who Registry of Academic Excellence. The registry is a publication with biographies of exemplary students from across the country. If chosen, she will be eligible to apply for a number of exclusive scholarships. Hailey was originally placed on probation for truancy in 2006, and now is attending the VOA Day Program in Lafayette, and appears to have made her educational ambitions clear.

Vermilion Parish youth **Gabrielle L.**, with help and guidance from **PPO Rhonda Gallet**, took, and passed, her GED test, and received her diploma in April. Gabby was originally placed on probation for truancy in 2008, but used the time under OJJ supervision to her advantage, and is now hoping to further her education in trade school.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Social Worker Janice Bray Manuel organized several community activities in recognition of crime victims' awareness week.

PPO Monet Newman and **PPS Melissa Cross** presented the Working Together

for Families collaboration effort at the FINS Conference in Baton Rouge in April.

Congratulations to **ALL** of the Lake Charles officers who successfully qualified in firearms training with no difficulty! Kudos to those officers who took advantage of available firearms practices and trainings!

We wish the best of luck to **PPO Jeff Haley** who began the POST Academy in April.

PPO3 Fred Fontenot and his wife, **Tonya Fontenot**, a State Police dispatcher, gathered garage sale items in support of a fundraiser for the Susan B. Komen Chapter of Breast Cancer. Several employees contributed goods for the garage sale.

PPO Angie Stevens, PPO Jeffery Haley, and **PPS Ken Vidrine** attended an incredibly valuable training on Motivational Interviewing which was presented by **Stephen Philippe**.

In April many **Lake Charles OJJ** officers attended a training offered by CPSO regarding gang-related information specific to our local area.

The **Lake Charles OJJ team** conducted an internal audit during April in anticipation of our Quality Assurance Review scheduled for this summer. It was noted by some officers that this was one of the greatest learning experiences thus far in their career. The Internal Audit was successful, and we continue to recreate items that were lost as a result of Hurricane Ike's flooding of our office in September 2008.

PPO Garrick Chambers, PPO Fred Fontenot, and PPO Angela Stevens each volunteered to conduct Sunday transports throughout this month. All three PPOs transported without complaint of inconvenience. Our office appreciates your great attitudes!

Kudos to **Regional Manager Ann Vick!** Ann was elected to conduct an exercise of constructive criticism of her Regional Manager duties, in the form of a PPR evaluation. All of the Lake Charles OJJ staff members were given copies of Ann's Planning PPR, defining her work expectations. All were given the task of evaluating her performance. Many were somewhat nervous about the process, but the task was taken seriously. Staff learned the role of evaluator of a co-worker's performance. Ann's ability to withstand anonymous critique from her subordinates demonstrates strength and leadership.

Monroe Regional Office

PPO Cheryl Pringle and **PPO Steve Pelfrey** graduated from the POST Academy in West Monroe. Class President PPO Pelfrey delivered the class address and was acknowledged as being second place in academics. Both PPO Pelfrey and PPO Pringle were recognized with Honorable Mention status regarding Physical Fitness.

PPS Karl Wallace and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth** successfully completed the following Office of Risk Management Loss Prevention Safety Programs: Supervisory Responsibilities; Accident/Incident Investigation; Inspections; Safety Meetings; and JSA's. They both successfully completed the ORM Loss Prevention Program training.

Monroe OJJ hosted JETS training in April. Also attending was Tallulah OJJ and Shreveport OJJ. Hammond OJJ's **Courtney Pegues** gave the presentation and provided a very useful handout.

Monroe OJJ gave a wedding shower in April for **PPO3 Jennifer Perkins**, who married J.R. Bible on April 17 in a beautiful ceremony attended by many of her OJJ family. We wish the couple best wishes and years of happiness.

Monroe OJJ hosted Service Coordination Booster Training. Also attending were Regional Managers and staff from Tallulah OJJ, Natchitoches OJJ, Alexandria OJJ, Shreveport OJJ, and SCY. We shared information and observations regarding Service Coordination. Tallulah and Monroe OJJ were among the pilot regions for Service Coordination.

PPO2 Willie Hunter and **PPO2 Joel McNair** represented OJJ at the University of LA at Monroe Criminal Justice Job Fair. We could not have asked for two more professional officers to represent our agency.

Monroe OJJ would like to recognize Johnny Robinson's Boys Home. The facility completed its ACA audit and scored 100% on mandatory and 100% on non-mandatory standards. Monroe OJJ is proud to have such an excellent group home in our Region. **Matt and Johnny Robinson** do an excellent job with OJJ youth.

April 22nd was Administrative Professionals Day. **Regional Manager Patty Newman** and all four Probation & Parole Supervisors contributed to purchase gift cards from Target for our administrative staff: **Gay Nivens, Diann Dixon, Brenda DuPriest, Shirley Price, Kashka Flintroy, and Katrina Ricks.** We appreciate all of their hard work.

PPO Theryl Malveaux started the POST Academy in April. We wish him luck and look forward to his return.

PPO2 Willie Hunter represented Monroe OJJ at the SCY Career Day in April. SCY staff does a good job putting on this annual event, and participation is always enjoyable.

Natchitoches Regional Office



Stanley Cook was promoted from **PPO2/J** to **PPO3/J**.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Our office would like to recognize **Monica Breedlove, Administrator Coordinator 3**. Although Mrs. Breedlove has only been with our office since January 29, 2008, she comes to our office with valuable skills and training that has been a great asset to our whole office.



Staff voted Mrs. Breedlove as an employee that has made a great contribution to our office. Mrs. Breedlove lifts the morale of our staff with her great sense of humor. She also is very compassionate when others are in need. Thank you, Monica, for everything!



We would like to say **"Happy Birthday!"** **Regional Manager Randy Hill** reached a milestone...but we will not say which one!!!!

PPO3 Stanley Cook, PPS Kristen McComic, and PPO1 Kelvin Jones, from Natchitoches OJJ and **Fran Martin, CO Staff Development Director,**

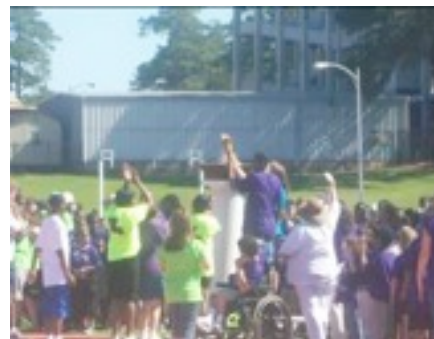
completed the Neighborhood Place Training Program. The state's first Neighborhood Place, a multi-agency one-stop service delivery unit, will open in Sabine Parish in June.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Special Olympics was held at Northwestern State University in April. The following PPOs participated in the track and field events:

leisha Beasley, Joseph Black, Heather Christophe, Sederick Smith and Ashley Ward.

Below are pictures from the Special Olympics.



CONGRATULATIONS

Several Natchitoches OJJ staff members have graduating high school seniors.

Proud parents are: **Randall Hill, Regional Manager, Simon Sarpy, PPS,** and **Rosa Brownlee, AC4.** Congratulations to the graduates AND the parents!

Congratulations to the Northwood Gators for winning the District Championship at the track meet held at Natchitoches Central High School in April. **Rosa Brownlee's sons, Anthony Brownlee** ran track and **Wesley Brownlee** served as team manager of the Northwood High School Gators from Boyce. .

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Administrative Sup. 2 Earnessa Moncriste is teaching sign language at Franklin Ave. Baptist Church. Earnessa recently earned an AA in American Sign Language and uses her talents not only to help those in need, but also to help others in communicating with hearing impaired individuals. Thanks Earnessa!

PPO 1 Darlinta Cook, PPO 1 Julia Jack and **PPO 1 Tanice Henley** will start the POST Academy in May. We are all confident they will do well.

PPO 3 Stanley Schofield had the opportunity to speak at Sarah T. Reed High School, Gretna Park and Charbonnet Elementary. Among the subjects were "What is it Going to Take to Educate Us?", "Don't let anyone tell you, you can't make it" and "What's up with it?" (Reference to what will it take to make it through hard times)

Shreveport Regional Office

CONGRATULATIONS

PPO Todd Carlisle graduated from the Caddo POST Academy in April. He did an outstanding job at the academy, and he was also honored by being selected

as Shreveport OJJ Employee of the Month for April.

SPECIAL THANKS

Shreveport OJJ administrative staff were presented flowers and treated to a meal at Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. Honored staff included: **Shatina Salter, Administrative Coordinator 4; Karen Smith, Administrator Coordinator 3; Renada Young, Administrative Coordinator 3; Frances Bywater, Clerical Support; and Atejia Glover, Student Worker.** Our support staff are the best!



PPO Todd Carlisle, left and Rick Ladner, supervisor.

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Shreveport OJJ participated with regional DSS staff in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. April is Child Abuse Awareness month in Louisiana, and Pinwheels for Prevention raises public awareness of child abuse and neglect and the need for services that reduce abuse and neglect. Bright blue pinwheels were bought and sold with all proceeds being donated to Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana. PCAL focuses on public awareness and prevention programs such as the staffed hotline 1-800-CHILDREN, parenting classes and professional training for those who work with children. A pinwheel garden planting ceremony was held on the grounds of the Louisiana State Office Building in Shreveport. Thanks to

Vernon Williams, Social Services Counselor, for coordinating this effort!

themselves and had to be forced to go back to work. During the afternoon break, they were treated to ice cream and cake.

So, from the Administrative Staff of Swanson Center for Youth, we all say THANK YOU to Director Ward, Director Hawkins, Director LeBlanc and Captain Alex.

Swanson Center for Youth



Representative Rosalind Jones and Principal William Lee.

Southside Alternative High School at SCY held its March assembly in recognition of achievements by women, past and present, and also to kick off LEAP testing week.

State Representative Rosalind Jones, of Monroe was the guest speaker. Representative Jones urged the students to make a change and to believe in themselves. She reminded the audience that she has always been a supporter of Swanson and pledged to continue that support. Following the program, **Major Billy Varner** took Representative Jones on a tour of the facility grounds.

THANK YOU!

Director Jerry Ward, Director Calvin Hawkins, Director Lynne LeBlanc and Captain Alex treated the Administrative personnel of the Howard Russell Administration Building to a feast of fried fish, fries and hushpuppies from Catfish Charlies'. The staff enjoyed

CRIME VICTIM AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

This year's National Crime Victim Awareness activities included implementation of programming that promotes diversity and drug prevention. The intent is to discourage ongoing drug use/distribution in our nation and hate crimes against people of different origins, religions, sexual orientation, etc.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation provided us with pamphlets and other items that were distributed to group leaders/units. They will be encouraged to utilize them during daily groups, check ins, and/or circle ups.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EASTER SERVICES

By Rev. Ricky James, SCY Chaplain

We wanted to share the glorious time we had at Easter Sunday morning services. Our Easter message was brought by **Rev. Allan Shield** of the West Monroe Church, entitled "The Love of God". Rev Shield emphasized the love God has for the world and its people. He expounded on the fact that God loves us unconditionally. His love is not based on who we are or on what we have done. He loves us because of Who He is. He is love. He explained that God loves everybody, no matter what they have done, or where they are, and will always love them. He used the Prodigal Son scriptures as an example. The younger son requested of his father his

inheritance. The father gave his younger son his portion of the inheritance, and the younger son went and spent it all. And he ended up in the pig pen, a foul, filthy, smelly place. The son thought to himself that his father's house was a better place after all. So he decided to go back home to his father and ask for forgiveness. He didn't know if his father would forgive him, but even if he didn't, he wanted to be treated like his father's hired servants. So he went home, and his father forgave him, and showed his love for him by celebrating his homecoming, giving him new clothes, and shoes to wear. His father received him with open arms, because he loved him.

We, and our youth, experienced a Pentecostal experience during our Fifth Annual Revival in April. The Pentecostal Church of the Twin Cities was our host. They came complete with their drummers, guitarists, worship leaders, and preachers. And as the youth would say "they were off the chain". They came with plenty of upbeat Gospel songs of praise, inspirational speakers, and other encouragers in the audience. There were an abundance of prayer and praise by everyone present. Our very own Choir contributed to the revival each night with the song entitled "God is With", written by our **Youth Troy**. The volunteers, as well as the youth in attendance, went wild in praise. There was a combined total of 215 youth who voluntarily supported this revival. The preachers had an awesome message for our youth. Monday night was about "All I need is Love", and Tuesday night was about "You can't stand alone". There were awesome illustrations on love, the unfailing love of God, as all you really need. All of love will be done away once the person is gone, but God's Love will be here forever. The grand illustration on you can't stand alone was when the preacher took one cup that represented one person, and tried to stand on it, and of course it was crushed. But he took several cups, placed a table on them and stood on it,

and the cups were not crushed. He invited several others to stand on the table, and most of the cups withstood their weight. The emphasis was "with God on our side, we can stand". See picture email by Capt. R. Alex, they are worth more than a thousand words.

Special Delivery!



Nick Spillers, RN Supervisor I on the night shift, was all smiles when he walked into his surprise baby shower. Excited co-workers spilled into the Infirmary with plenty of gifts, cake and punch to help celebrate the coming of his precious son, Kip who was born on April 8, 2009. Special thanks to the SCY staff for their cooperation and a huge Congratulations to Nick!

AIDING IN THE BATTLE TO CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER

Pat Hernandez, Director of Nursing at SCY, participated in the Conquer Childhood Cancer Campaign 2009. The Childhood Cancer Advocacy event is held annually to aid in the battle to conquer childhood cancer. This year's event "Reach the Day" will be hosted in our Nation's Capitol by Cure Search. Mrs. Hernandez was invited to submit a letter that, along with other submissions, will be converted into a booklet spotlighting Louisiana's cancer children. This booklet will be presented in Washington D.C. during June by parents of children with cancer to battle for funding of Childhood Cancer

Research. Please see Pat's submission to "Reach the Day" below.



Kayla Hernandez

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

My name is Pat Hernandez, and I would like to introduce you to my granddaughter, Kayla Hernandez, who is ten years of age. Kayla is a resident of Monroe, Louisiana who currently lives in our beautiful state of Hawaii.

At the age of two, Kayla had a CBC blood test that confirmed 65% of her blood cells were cancerous. She was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Due to St. Jude's diligence in research, the chemotherapy protocol administered to Kayla for the Leukemia caused her to be a beautiful, happy-go-lucky child that will grow up to be a productive citizen for the United States. I credit her geniality to St. Jude and all their research efforts in search of treatments and cure that will not only destroy the cancer cells but will also cause the least amount of trauma to children.

Unfortunately not all children diagnosed with cancer will have the same joyful outcome as Kayla. A child has died of cancer as I typed this letter to you. Much more research is needed to search for the causes and cures of the various childhood cancers.

Tallulah Regional Office

A Success Story for Mother's Day

Regional Manager Ruth Stephens shares the story of Al B., who came into the OJJ system at age 11 and was placed at Christian Acres in Tallulah. When he was released, Ruth helped Al get into the U.S. Army.

Al went on to receive an Associate in General Studies degree from Central Texas College, Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia Military College, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Troy University.

Ruth said Al is due to retire from the Army soon, and plans to return to Louisiana and seek employment in the area of juvenile justice, to repay the system that played such an important role in his life.

Al sent Ruth a note and a picture of himself with his wife. The note says: **"To Mrs. Stephens - A Mother - I've never really had. I love you with all my heart. And thank you for standing by me all these years."**

Ruth has kept up with Al all these years, and says "This kid has been my incentive. I have kept his picture and his note on my desk all these years to keep me focused."

CONGRATULATIONS

Patricia Dense was Tallulah OJJ's Employee of the Month for April.

Our office honored our Administrative Professionals in April with a basket of flowers. Thanks to **Patricia Dense, Martha Hattaway, Frances Kennedy** and **Sherri Mathews** for all the good work you do.

PPO3 Jena McCattry and **PPO2 Truett Glass** attended Safety Training in Monroe in April.

A HAIR-RAISING EXPERIENCE

A man sought sanctuary in the Tallulah OJJ office after he was shot at by an unknown assailant. The Sheriff's department was notified, and the man was removed from the premises for questioning. Staff members **Sherri Mathews** and **Patricia Dense**, were commended for their quick and appropriate actions in what could have been a serious situation."

Thibodaux Regional Office

CONGRATULATIONS

The following officers were recently promoted to PPO3s:

Allison Lirette, Summer Ferriera, and Heidi Brown

PPO 3/James Percle was the **Employee of the Month for March.**

SUCCESS STORIES

Here is some news about one of our kids and a program in Region 4:

David S. IS taking ACT and applying to college! His officer is **PPO2/Rachel Loupe.**

Also, an article was published in the Tri-Parish Times about the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Drug Court Program.

A BEAUTIFUL LESSON IN LIFEbe nice to others, because...time will make a difference!



The Inside Scoop...of

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office SPEAK staff with input from staff statewide.

...until next

OJJ Administrative Team

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Prince E. Gray, Jr., Assistant Secretary
James Bueche, Undersecretary
Paula (Merrick) Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary
Carolyn B. Lewis, Dep. Asst. Sec. Community Based Services
Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities
Ellyn Peterson, Chief of Operations/Dep. Asst. Sec., CQIS
Michelle Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects
Marlyn Goins-McCants, Family & Community Liaison
Kim B. Mims, Director of Education
Martha Morgan, General Counsel
Gwendolyn Jones, Human Resources Director
Dawson Andrews, Information Technology Director
Glenn Holt, Project Manager, Capital Outlay Projects
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, **Communications Director**

Contacts

For more information contact Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov
225.287.7898

Family and Community Liaison
Tel. 225.287.7985

Reporters

Alexandria: Sharon Graham
Baton Rouge: Michelle Thomas
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Monique Jones
Central Office: Anne Carter & Katherine Abrams
Hammond: Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Daron Brown
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SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)
Michelle Smith, Deputy Asst. Secretary, Special Projects
Jerel Giarrusso, Communications Director
Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development
Shaeki Shanklin – Administrative Coordinator